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1973

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2. JOAQUIN P E N A, CHIEF OF THE PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PCCH, HAS DRAWN UP A PLAN FOR EXPANDING THE MILITARY POTENTIAL OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. THE INTENTION IS TO CREATE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, A NETWORK OF PARAMILITARY UNITS THROUGHOUT CHILE WHICH COULD BE USED FOR STREET FIGHTING OR IN THE EVENT OF A CIVIL WAR.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE JUN 11 1990

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IN [REDACTED]
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(class/condition) (dissem controls)

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3. PENA IS PRESENTLY SETTING UP AN OPERATIONAL GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS IN SANTIAGO. ITS LOCATION IS TO BE KNOWN TO VERY FEW PEOPLE. THE GENERAL STAFF WILL CONSIST OF THE LEADERS OF THE ARMED UNITS AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL AND CONTROL COMMISSIONS OF THE PCCH. OPERATIONAL CENTERS WILL ALSO BE SET UP IN THE INDUSTRIAL BELTS AND IN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT, LOWER CLASS HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS. THESE CENTERS WILL BE LINKED BY TECHNICAL AND HUMAN MEANS TO THE GENERAL STAFF. THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IS TO BE COORDINATED SO THAT AT A GIVEN SIGNAL LARGE CONTINGENTS OF TRAINED WORKERS CAN BE PUT INTO THE STREETS.

4. ALL EXISTING SELF-DEFENSE UNITS WILL BE GIVEN MILITARY TRAINING AND NEW GROUPS ARE TO BE FORMED. SPECIAL EMPHASIS IN THIS REGARD IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE CITIES OF SANTIAGO, VALPARAISO, CONCEPCION, CAUTIN AND ANTOFAGASTA. OFFICES OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH WEAPONS FOR THEIR DEFENSE, OR FOR ATTACK PURPOSES WHEN NECESSARY. THE PCCH SELF-DEFENSE MECHANISM IS BEING COORDINATED WITH THE PARAMILITARY GROUPS OF THE OTHER PARTIES OF THE POPULAR UNITY (U.P.) COALITION. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE PCCH BEGAN TO EMPHASIZE ITS SELF-DEFENSE GROUPS SHORTLY AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN 1978. PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES THAT AT LEAST

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THE SELF-DEFENSE UNITS IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY ANTOFAGASTA, WERE TRAINED BY CUBAN SECURITY EXPERTS.)

5. [REDACTED]

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6. THE SELF-DEFENSE UNITS OF THE PCCH ARE ARMED, WELL-TRAINED AND ARE BEING EMPLOYED TO PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE AND POSSIBLE RETALIATION AGAINST OPPOSITION GROUPS. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE SEIZURE OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE ON 15 JUNE BY A GROUP OF 300 YOUTH MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC), A PCCH SELF-DEFENSE UNIT WAS SENT TO MONITOR ACTIVITIES FROM SURROUNDING BUILDINGS AND TO BE PREPARED TO ENGAGE THE PDC YOUTH IF THIS BECAME NECESSARY. THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE, WHICH WAS ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS, RIFLES WITH TELESCOPIC SIGHTS, AND HAND GRENADES, QUIETLY SURROUNDED THE OCCUPIED BUILDING AND MADE PREPARATIONS TO ATTACK THE PDC YOUTH. THIS SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED TO BE UNNECESSARY, SINCE THE YOUTH LEFT THE BUILDING VOLUNTARILY AT ABOUT 8:00 P.M. ON THE SAME DAY.

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7. THE SELF-DEFENSE GROUP WAS CALLED INTO ACTION AGAIN ON 28 JUNE, WHEN A LARGE GROUP OF OPPOSITION STUDENTS MET AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE LAW SCHOOL TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO SEIZE T.V. CHANNEL NINE, THE GOVERNMENT'S TELEVISION FACILITY. UPON LEARNING OF THIS POSSIBLE PLAN, THE SELF-DEFENSE UNIT WAS ORDERED TO GUARD THE T.V. STATION. IN THIS INSTANCE, THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE HAS AGAIN HEAVILY ARMED.

8. [REDACTED]

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